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Gullah culture in art and graphic novels to be explored in Georgetown, SC

Gullah influence in Southern graphic artistry is the focus of a free presentation at the Georgetown Library at 405 Cleland Street in Georgetown, SC, on Sunday, January 11, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

In a program entitled *Comics and Graphic Novels of the South*, Dr. Quiana Whitted of the University of South Carolina (USC), will focus on visual narratives of African American southern experience in memoir, adventure, humor, and fantasy. How do comic books bring the black folktales and legends of southern swamps to life? What can we learn about the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras when their trials and triumphs are expressed through text and image? Comics to be discussed include Jeremy Love's series BAYOU, Joel Christian Gill's STRANGE FRUIT COMICS, the comic strip TOMMY TRAVELER IN THE WORLD OF BLACK HISTORY by Tom Feelings, and the graphic novel memoir, MARCH, by Congressman John Lewis.

"Despite their well-known connection with superhero cities like Gotham and Metropolis, comic books and graphic novels have their own tradition of representing the history, people, and places of the South," Whitted said.

Dr. Whitted is Associate Professor of English with a joint appointment in African American Studies. She is also the Associate Director of the African American Studies program. She graduated from Hampton University with a B.A. degree in English and received her Master's and PhD in American Studies from Yale University. She has been a faculty member at the University of South Carolina since 2003, where she teaches courses in African American literature, black cultural studies, and comic books. Her publications include "A God of Justice? The Problem of Evil in 20th Century Black Literature" and the edited essay collection, "Comics and the U.S. South." For more information on her work, please visit: qianawhitted.com.

Another planned program at the Georgetown Library will feature Dr. Birgitta Johnson, Sunday, February 8, speaking on Ethnomusicology. These programs are made possible by a major grant from the Humanities Council SC, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of South Carolinians. For more information on *Out of the Rice Fields*, please contact the Georgetown County Library at (843) 545-3300.